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It is a primary principle, therefore, that no event can be really miraculous which has implications inconsistent with fundamental religious truth . . . The whole place, says Benson, is alive with Mary. That is the very reason why we are sure that the marvels which occur there are not the direct acts of God, but are of the same order as the similar ones which have occurred at many similar shrines of many names, in many lands, serving many gods" (pp. 119-123).

That is to say, by definition, miracles accompany revelation as its attestation, and since revelation found its organic completeness in Christ, miracles have ceased and no amount of evidence can make them credible. But one has an uneasy sense that here is a vicious circle — the revelation is known to be such because accompanied by miracles, and miracles are known to be miracles because they attend revelation.

W. W. FENN.

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FREEDOM AND TRUTH: and other Sermons in King's Chapel. HOWARD N. BROWN, D.D. W. B. Clarke Co. 1916. Pp. vi, 337. \$1.75.

This volume contains more than a score of sermons preached by Dr. Brown in King's Chapel, Boston, in the course of as many years, and includes also a brief and vivid historical sketch of the church. The sermons, while covering a wide range of subjects, deal almost wholly with the greater and more abiding themes of the religious life, rather than with issues of temporary and fleeting interest. There is in them, indeed, nothing of that sort of "preaching for the times" which so often degenerates into mere chatter about current events. Dr. Brown deals with large issues from a point of view which, by the long habit of meditation, has become somewhat detached. His preaching is carefully wrought, the distillation of much quiet thinking into a form far more highly finished than that of the vast majority of preachers.

It should be said at once that the result is rather far removed from the popular pulpit oratory of the day. Dr. Brown's sermons are stately rather than "snappy," more full of thought than of "punch," better calculated to produce a reasoned conviction than an emotional thrill. They contain, indeed, an admirable degree of religious warmth and a very genuine spiritual insight, but their chief characteristic is their wisdom, as persuasive as it is unobtrusive. Dr. Brown's observation of current tendencies is shrewd and his judgment upon them sagacious.

It is a criticism of the age rather than of the preacher to recognize that sermons of this type can today command only a rather limited number of hearers. With all their modernity of outlook, their style is that of the great English university preachers to whom Oxford and Cambridge used to listen with attention, or of the American Unitarians of the nineteenth century, with their clear thinking and their high appeal to the moral judgment rather than to the emotions. It requires a congregation with genuine intellectual interests and spiritual idealism to appreciate such preaching. It will be neither understood nor valued by people whose chief interest in the sermon is the hope that it will soon end that they may the more quickly reach the golf links or start the motor-car. But to those who value the great traditions of the pulpit and its position of intellectual prestige, this volume will be most welcome. It is the fruit of a long and honored ministry; the evidence that a kind of preaching which the world cannot afford to lose is still here and there to be found.

HENRY WILDER FOOTE.

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THE NEW ARCHEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES AND THEIR BEARING UPON THE NEW TESTAMENT AND UPON THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE PRIMITIVE CHURCH. CAMDEN M. COBERN. Introduction by Edouard Naville. Funk & Wagnalls Co. 1917. Pp. xxxiv, 698. \$3.00.

This big and handsomely illustrated book by an American professor of the Bible is intended for popular readers, not for scholars, and must be judged by that aim. The author has had some experience in excavation, has seen many archæological discoveries and manuscripts, has read widely, and has diligently assembled material from many sources "to make this work a 'corpus' of all the more fascinating facts and all the most beautiful and worthy sayings that have floated down to us from the opulent centuries in which the earliest Church was trained." Unfortunately the exaggeration of expression and the indefiniteness of thought regarding his task which appear in the author's language here quoted from his preface, are characteristic of the book.

The material objects recovered from the past in modern times (as well as the ancient books and private bits of writing) have expanded and enlivened our knowledge, have sustained or corrected the conclusions of patient scholarship, occasionally (though rarely) have answered a debated question. To make from this vast mass of facts newly brought to light suitable selections which should show